

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6660

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJECT: NPG MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

REF: USNATO 6572

1. MISSION PROVIDES IN PARA 2 BELOW DRAFT NPG MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE CIRCULATED BY IS. AS REPORTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTTEL, PRESENT PLANNING ENVISAGES THAT NPG COUNTRIES AGREE IN ADVANCE ON A DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WHICH MINISTERS COULD APPROVE AT DECEMBER 10 NPG MEETING. THE IS PLANS TO MEET WITH REPS OF NPG COUNTRIES ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4 TO DISCUSS ANY COMMENTS FROM CAPITALS ON THE DRAFT IN PARA 2 BELOW. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT NPG COMMUNIQUE IN PARA 2 BELOW PRIOR TO DECEMBER 4.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF DRAFT COMMUNIQUE.

THE NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP (NPG), AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, TODAY HELD ITS SIXTEENTH HALF-YEARLY MEETING IN NATO HEADQUARTERS, BRUSSELS. IN CONFORMITY WITH PAST PRACTICE, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, THE SUPREME ALLIED CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMANDER EUROPE (SACEUR), AND THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER ATLANTIC (SACLANT), WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING.

SINCE ITS CREATION IN DECEMBER 1966, THE NPG HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AGREED POLICY GUIDELINES FOR NATO'S NUCLEAR DEFENCE AFFAIRS. THROUGH A REGULAR AND FREE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN MINISTERS OF DEFENCE, THE FUNDAMENTALS WERE ESTABLISHED FOR POLITICAL GUIDANCE TO ALLIANCE MILITARY PLANNERS REGARDING THE POSSIBLE DEFENSIVE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AT TODAY'S MEETING THE DISCUSSIONS ON ALLIANCE NUCLEAR POLICY WERE FULLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSULTATION PROVISIONS OF THE 1974 ATLANTIC DECLARATION. THE MINISTERS REPEATED THEIR STRONG INTEREST IN FURTHER PROGRESS WITH THE NPG'S WORK AND REAFFIRMED THEIR PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT DISCUSSIONS OF THIS NATURE PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN FURTHERANCE OF NATO'S AIM TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IN THE AGE OF DETENTE A MANIFEST DEFENSIVE POTENTIAL REPRESENTS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION FOR CREDIBLE DETERRENCE.

AS AT FORMER MEETINGS, THE MINISTERS WERE BRIEFED BY THE UNITED STATES' SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON THE CURRENT BALANCE OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES. THEY RECEIVED THE BRIEFING WITH APPRECIATION AND WENT ON TO DISCUSS THE LATEST TRENDS IN THIS FIELD WITH RESPECT TO NATO' DEFENCE. MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES RELATING TO THE DOCTRINE FOR TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO NATO'S NUCLEAR POSTURE. /MINISTERS ALSO NOTED STATEMENTS BY THE MAJOR NATO COMMANDERS WHO REPORTED ON THEIR CURRENT OPERATIONAL PLANNING./

REVIEWING THE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE NPG, THE MINISTERS GAVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES. THEY DECIDED TO HOLD THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE SPRING OF 1975. MCAULIFFE

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